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PLYMPTON ST. MARY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT


For the Year 1955

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

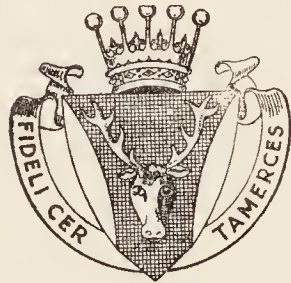
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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*Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health
are as follows :—*

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKS COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

WATER COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Telephone No. : Plympton 2244

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Retired 31.12.55)

DR. R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1.1.56)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DR. S. NOY SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

MR. R. T. FEDRICK, F.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Petroleum Inspector)

Sanitary Inspectors :

MR. R. OSBORNE, M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

MR. E. R. SHEPHERD, M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

Clerk :

MISS G. H. PROWSE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1955.

The work was carried out while Dr. W. C. Smales was Medical Officer of Health. I would like to record my gratitude to him for all the help that he has given to me, and in addition would like to thank the members of the Department who are responsible almost entirely for the compilation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—66,600 acres, of which 174 are inland water.

Population—1951 Census	31,820
-------------------------------	--------

Population estimated to the middle of 1955	32,960
---	--------

Rateable Value	£210,505
-----------------------	----------

Amount produced by a 1d. Rate	£853. 6s. 8d.
--------------------------------------	---------------

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955

Live Births

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Legitimate	425	208	217	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.32.
Illegitimate	14	9	5	
	—	—	—	
	439	217	222	

Still Births

7	4	3
---	---	---

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 15.69.

Deaths

400	205	195
-----	-----	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.13.

	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	1	—	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 2.24

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20.50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				18.82
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				71.42

Date Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	18.22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				16.47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				71.42

CAUSES OF DEATH

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1955	1954
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	2	—	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	1	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	1	—	1	—

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1955	1954
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	3	4	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	9	4	13	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	14	1	15	11
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	4	4	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	3	3	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	12	31	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	35	66	67
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	45	24	69	57
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	4	10	9
20. Other heart disease	11	40	51	64
21. Other circulatory disease ...	12	7	19	28
22. Influenza	1	1	2	1
23. Pneumonia	7	11	18	12
24. Bronchitis	12	4	16	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	4	4	7
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	2	2	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	—	1	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—	7	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	1
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	1	2	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	26	38	49
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4	1
34. All other accidents	3	4	7	7
35. Suicide	4	2	6	4
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	1	1	—
	205	195	400	410

Deaths over 65

There were 276, viz.: 51 between 65 and 70.

53	„	70	„	75.
62	„	75	„	80.
51	„	80	„	85.
39	„	85	„	90.
15	„	90	„	95.
5	„	95	„	100.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The total number of notifications was 852, as compared with 307 during the previous year.

Scarlet Fever

41 cases were notified as compared with 26 during the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in the parishes of Ivybridge (18) and Plymstock (16). The disease was of a very mild character.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Acute Poliomyelitis

5 cases were notified (2 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic) and of these 4 were admitted to Hospital. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 1 paralytic case. There was 1 death.

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

School Exclusions

During the year 119 notices were received referring to 567 children who were excluded from School because of communicable disease or because they were contacts in infected houses.

They were as follows: Scarlet Fever, 38; Chicken Pox, 103; Measles, 313; Whooping Cough, 8; Impetigo, 8; Mumps, 82; Ringworm, 2; Acute Poliomyelitis, 2; German Measles, 3; Conjunctivitis, 2; Jaundice, 1; Typhoid Fever, 3; Dysentery, 2.

Tuberculosis (*see pages 11 and 12*)

With regard to the extent of notification before death, the following table shows the date of notification:—

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date Notified</i>	<i>Died</i>
<i>M</i>	31	15.9.50	28.11.55

The remaining case was not notified in this district previous to death.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1955.

DISEASE.	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Plympton St. Mary	Plympton St. Maurice	Plymstock	Shaugh Prior	Wembury	Yealinton	Totals
SCARLET FEVER ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	18	—	3	1	16	—	—	1	41
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	5
PNEUMONIA ...	—	3	1	3	—	3	3	3	10	—	1	1	—	2	30
ERYSIPELAS ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	5
WHOOPING COUGH ...	—	—	18	1	—	1	—	2	21	3	10	4	—	—	60
MEASLES ...	7	5	24	20	—	5	38	12	176	93	291	3	19	4	697
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
FOOD POISONING ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
DYSENTERY ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
TYPHOID FEVER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
PARATYPHOID B. ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ...	7	9	44	25	1	10	59	18	222	99	322	8	19	9	852

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND TOTAL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1955.

	AGE PERIODS (NOTIFICATIONS)													Removed to Hospital	Naval and Military Cases	AGE PERIODS (DEATHS)											65 & over	Total
	Under one year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total			1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
		2	3	4	5	6	24	6	2	2	1	1				5	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
SCARLET FEVER ..	-	-	2	3	3	6	24	6	-	-	-	-	41	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1			
PNEUMONIA ..	-	1	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	2	12	9	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
ERYSIPELAS ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
WHOOPING COUGH ..	8	5	4	5	7	27	1	1	1	1	1	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
MEASLES ..	10	51	68	76	75	398	10	2	2	4	-	1	697	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
FOOD POISONING ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
DYSENTERY ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
TYPHOID FEVER ..	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
PARATYPHOID B. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
TOTALS ..	19	58	76	85	88	457	18	3	8	10	17	13	852	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1			

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES						DEATHS						Total No. of Cases	Total No. of Deaths
	PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.			PULMONARY.			Non-PULMONARY.				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Under 1 Year	
1—5	
5—10	
10—15	
15—20	
20—25	
25—35	
35—45	
45—55	
55—65	
65 and upwards	
TOTALS	

With regard to Tuberculosis affecting employees in the milk trade, no case had to be dealt with, nor had any action to be taken with regard to the compulsory removal to Hospital under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Nursing Arrangements.—(Devon County Council.) There are now 10 District Nurse/Midwives working in the area and 1 General Trained Nurse. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officer.

Midwives.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. In addition to the 10 County Midwives there are 2 Private Midwives practising in the area. All 10 County Midwives are qualified to give Gas and Air Analgesia.

Health Visitors.—There are three working in the Plympton Area who carry out all duties under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Devon County Council have six centres in the District: Plympton, Plymstock, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Hooe and Turnchapel, and Roborough.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Where on account of the difficulty of travelling or other reason a patient is unable to attend the Centre, free treatment can be obtained from certain specified general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226.

In-patient Orthopaedic Treatment is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association at Exeter, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients the South-West Clinic which deals with this district is held at Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

X-rays.—The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases are admitted at any time to the Treatment Centre, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

Tuberculosis.—The Regional Hospital Board have Sanatoria at Hawkmoor, Hawley and Didworthy.

Open-Air School.—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

General Hospitals, used by residents:—

South Devon and East Cornwall, Greenbank Road, Plymouth.

„ „ Devonport.

„ „ Lockyer Street, Plymouth.

„ „ Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

The Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

Underwood House Hospital, Plympton.

The Convalescent Home, Crownhill.

Isolation Hospital.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

Ambulance Facilities for Infectious Cases.—The Minister of Health has agreed to infectious patients being taken to the Isolation Hospital by the Plympton Ambulance Station.

Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents.—As from 1st January, 1951, an Ambulance Station was established at Harewood House, Plympton, by the Devon County Council through the agency of the British Red Cross Society, and deals with all cases and accidents.

Laboratory Work.—The Public Health Laboratory Service established a new laboratory in the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank Road, Plymouth, on June 3rd, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and for the examination of milk, water, ice cream and foodstuffs. We have received the greatest assistance and co-operation from this service.

Consultants.—Consultants are now obtained through the services of the Regional Hospital Board.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out through the general practitioner service, or at schools, school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services.

Provision of Vaccine and Anti-Toxin.—Supplies of diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No cases were dealt with during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Main Supplies.—These are obtained from Yealm Head, Erme and Ivybridge. All these waters are chlorinated and treated with lime. During the year the village of Shaugh Prior has been supplied from the main supplies and a local untreated source abandoned. The Council have prepared a scheme and received Ministerial approval for a new main to be laid from Houndall to Elburton, but work had not yet commenced at the end of the period under review.

It is estimated that of the houses in the district—

88% are served by mains;

7% by standpipe;

5% from private sources.

Water Sampling

During the year, 125 samples were taken. 119 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 6 samples for chemical analysis.

The following table shows the results of the samples taken for bacteriological examination:—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.</i>			
		<i>Class 1 (less than 1)</i>	<i>Class 2 (1–2)</i>	<i>Class 3 (3–10)</i>	<i>Class 4 (Greater than 10)</i>
HARFORD ...	13	11	—	—	2
ERME HEAD ...	44	39	2	1	2
YEALM HEAD ...	23	22	—	1	—
OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPLIES ...	39	11	1	4	32
TOTALS ...	119	83	3	6	27

6 samples from the main supplies were submitted for examination for plumbo solvency, to ensure that the preventive measures to restrain corrosive action were effective.

Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows:—

Bickleigh. Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

Brixton. Supplied from Council's Yealm supply. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are two standpipes in the village.

Brixton Torre has been connected to the Yealm supply during the year. Coombe and Hornicombe are small places supplied by a local spring piped to standpipes.

Cornwood. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have a piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Lutton. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have piped supply. There are six standpipes in the village.

Ermington. Supplied from Erme supply. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Westlake and Longbrook are supplied by well and pump.

Harford. Few houses—have own supply from spring (private).

Holbeton. Supplied from local springs, piped to village. A few houses have a piped supply, but most of the cottages are supplied from standpipes.

Ivybridge. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir and also Erme supply. Most houses have piped supply.

Newton and Noss. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply.

There are ten standpipes at Newton Ferrers, and five standpipes at Noss Mayo which supply the older cottages.

Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supply.

Sparkwell. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes which supply the older cottages.

Lee Mill. Supplied from Erme Supply. Some of the houses have piped supply. There are seven standpipes in the village.

Mount Pleasant and Venton. Supplied from local springs by pump and standpipes.

Plymstock. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are six standpipes at Lower Hooe and Turnchapel.

Staddiscombe. Some of the cottages have piped supply: There are three standpipes in the village.

Shaugh Prior. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

Wotter. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes which supply cottages of English Clays Ltd.

Wembury. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Down Thomas. Supplied from Yealm source. Most houses have piped supply.

Yealmpton. Supplied from local springs, augmented from Yealm source in dry periods. Most houses have piped supply. There are eight standpipes in the village.

Dunstone. Supplied from local springs. Several cottages have piped supply. There are five standpipes in the village.

All the villages consisting of more than a dozen houses have a piped supply.

All supplies are constant except Elburton and Newton Ferrers where steps are being taken to augment supplies thereto. As at 31st December, 1955, the first stage of the work had received Ministry approval and was due to start almost immediately.

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following details of work carried out in his Department during the year, in relation to Public Health.

Water Supply

Water main extensions at:—

Brixton Torre.
 Longbrook, Yealmpton.
 Arcadia, Elburton.
 Woodford Estate, Plympton.
 Grange Estate, Plympton.
 Crown Yealm Estate, Newton Ferrers.
 Radford Park Estate, Plymstock.
 Abovetown Estate, Plymstock.
 Sherford Crescent, Elburton.
 Clifton Estate, Plympton.
 Lower Woodford Estate, Plympton.
 R.A.F. Estate, Radford Park Road, Plymstock.
 Coltness Road, Elburton.
 Cott Hill, Plympton.
 Plymbridge Road, Plympton.
 Great Churchways, Elburton.
 Thornyville Villas, Oreston.
 Chaddlewood, Plympton.
 Goosewell Terrace, Goosewell.
 Blackberry Lane, Plymstock.
 Gower Ridge, Plymstock.
 Rockville Park Estate, Pomphlett.
 The Grove, Pomphlett.

WATER CONNECTIONS 1955

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Connections during 1955</i>			<i>Total connections as at 31.12.55</i>		
	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>
Brixton	23	1	24	231	23	254
Cornwood	6	1	7	211	9	220
Ermington	1	1	2	116	19	135
Harford	—	1	1	—	2	2
Holbeton	1	—	1	99	10	109
Ivybridge... ..	6	4	10	457	29	486
Newton and Noss...	10	—	10	461	25	486
Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice	119	4	123	2761	133	2894
Plymstock	240	7	247	3509	142	3651
Shaugh Prior	4	4	8	58	12	70
Wembury	11	2	13	292	47	339
Yealmpton	39	—	39	250	20	270
TOTALS	460	25	485	8445	471	8916

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work continued on Plympton Sewage Disposal Works.

Schemes for Yealmpton and Ermington subject to Ministry enquiry and subsequently approved but starting date not allocated.

Scheme prepared for Lee Moor.

Preliminary investigations for Plymstock Main Drainage Scheme commenced.

Refuse Disposal

Tipping continued at Linketty Lane.

We have continued to afford a weekly collection of household refuse to the whole district except a few isolated properties.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL HOUSES DURING 1955

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Plans Approved</i>	<i>Repre- senting No. of Houses</i>	<i>Houses Com- pleted</i>	<i>Layout Plans Approved</i>
Brixton	4	4	4	—
Cornwood	2	2	1	—
Ermington	1	1	—	—
Ivybridge	1	1	4	—
Newton and Noss	10	15	10	2
Plympton St. Mary... ..	46	248	131	3
Plympton St. Maurice	4	4	6	1
Plymstock	74	219	107	9
Shaugh Prior	—	—	2	—
Wembury	10	11	9	1
Yealmpton	2	2	—	—
TOTAL	154	507	274	16

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PARTS 2 & 3

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Sec. 1

The Council's proposals for dealing with unfit houses, as sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, are as follows:

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authority's area	9,624
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

PART 1. THE TOTAL PROBLEM

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 505 |
| (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) | | | | | | | | 10 |

PART 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.

- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|-----|
| (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority | | | | | | | | 5 |
| (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | ... | ... | ... | | | | | Nil |

PART 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|-----|
| (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years | ... | ... | | | | | | Nil |
| (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the Local Authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister | | | | | | | | 376 |
| (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation | ... | | | | | | | Nil |
| (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | 381 |
| (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | | | | | 74 |

I am indebted to the Housing Officer for the following information.

Pre-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied up to the commencement of the war in 1939 was 367, excluding houses transferred to Plymouth.

Post-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied during the post-war period up to December 31st, 1955, is as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>				<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Bickleigh	Leatside (Roborough)...	...	...	8
Brixton	Bellows Park	...	...	70
					(including 2 shops)
Cornwood	...	Newtown	...	...	6
Do.	Crossways	...	...	16
Ermington	...	Ermeside Cottages	...	...	6
Holbeton	Orchard Cottages	...	...	8
Do.	1 and 2 Fore Street	...	...	2
Ivybridge	New Estate	...	...	108
					(including 2 shops)
Newton and Noss		Hillside Cottages	...	...	6
Do.	Butts Park	...	...	20
Plympton St. Mary		New Park (Lee Mill)	...	...	16
Do.	George Avenue	...	...	20
Do.	Woodford	...	...	114
					(including 1 shop)
Plympton St. Maurice		New Estate	...	...	174
					(including 2 shops)
Plymstock	...	Pomphlett Close	...	...	60
Do.	Hooe Estate	...	...	94
					(including 2 shops)
Do.	Hooe Manor Estate	...	...	112
Do.	Wembury Road (Elburton)	...	...	26

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Shaugh Prior	...	Trethewey Gardens	(Wotter)			30
Wembury	...	Uplands	...	...	...	6
Yealmpton	...	Yeo Park	...	...	...	6
Do.	...	Yealm Park	...	...	...	38
<i>Total Dwellings</i>						946

The number of houses under construction at the 31st December, 1955, is as follows:—

Plymstock	...	Hooe Manor Estate	...	...	24
<i>Total Dwellings</i>					24

Further contracts in course of preparation are as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Plymstock	...	Oreston	...	...	...	36
Shaugh Prior	...	Lee Moor	...	...	...	28
<i>Total Dwellings</i>						64

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecut'd (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	31	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	43	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	149	55	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7) :					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i> ...	3	3	—	3	—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1955.

Dr. Smales, Medical Officer of Health to the Council for twenty-three years, retired from office at the end of the year. In addition to much good work carried out as Medical Officer of Health, he was a friend to all the staff, and will be remembered for his unfailing kindness and his readiness to help and advise at all times.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	25
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1936	...	...	442
Total visits for housing purposes	...	...	3,175
Visits in connection with Council house applications	...	...	47
Factories	...	...	55
Food Premises	...	...	137
Slaughterhouses, farms, etc.	...	...	1,030
Dairies	...	...	20
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936	...	...	55
Explosives	...	...	2
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	139
Water Supplies and Sampling	...	...	193
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	39
Nuisances investigated	...	...	218
Camps inspected	...	...	2
Rodent Control	...	...	3
Drainage work	...	...	133
Total number of visits for all purposes during the year	...	...	5,709

HOUSING

Rural Housing Survey. In connection with the report on Rural Housing prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, and Ministry of Health Circular 64/44, the total number of houses inspected since the commencement of the Survey is 4,604.

During the year, 414 houses were inspected and placed in the following categories:—

Category 1.	Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	36
Category 2.	Minor defects	...	...	44
Category 3.	Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvement	...	...	325
Category 5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense...	...	...	9

Housing Act, 1949. During the year, 23 applications for Grant were received; 20 were approved, but subsequently 2 were withdrawn. Improvements were carried out at 13 houses, and the remainder are either in hand or not started yet.

Ten applicants were advised an application would be unlikely to be approved by the Council.

In addition, 65 other enquiries were received and advice given.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It is the duty of every Local Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who dies or is found dead in their area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. It was not necessary to do so during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1952

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952. It is necessary for a person keeping a Pet Shop to be licensed by the Council. Three licences were granted during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) <i>Agri- cultural</i>
	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	Non-Agricultural			
		(2) <i>Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)</i>	(3) <i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3)</i>	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District. (Notes 1 and 2)	40 <i>(approx.)</i>	10,500 <i>(approx.)</i>	525 <i>(approx.)</i>	11,065 <i>(approx.)</i>	635 <i>(approx.)</i>
2. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> as a result of :					
(a) Notification	8	129	15	152	10
(b) Survey under the Act	29	5,905	30	5,964	98
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	3	4	2	9	3
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	152	6,153	57	6,361	143
4. Number of <i>properties</i> inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be <i>infested</i> by :					
(a) Rats { Major	1	—	—	1	—
Minor	15	205	15	235	1
(b) Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	5	—	5	—
5. Number of <i>infested properties</i> (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority (figures should NOT exceed those given at Section 4)	16	210	15	241	1
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of “block” control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

FIREGUARDS ACT, 1953

This Act came into operation on 1st October, 1953. The Act and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder make provision for the fitting of guards of approved type to all heating appliances.

All appliances manufactured after 1st October, 1953, must comply with the provisions of the Act and the provisions apply to all fires, etc., sold by retail after 1st October, 1954.

Visits have been paid to all known dealers in such appliances and the provisions have been explained to them.

RODENT CONTROL

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, no charge was made for work carried out at private dwellings but the full cost of work at business premises was recovered.

Co-operation has been maintained with the officials of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and their advice is always appreciated.

Annual Test Baiting was carried out in April in thirty-one sewerage systems. As a result it was necessary to carry out a maintenance treatment in May in fourteen systems. The second maintenance treatment was carried out in October in fifteen systems. The Council's Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips are inspected regularly and treated when found to be necessary.

Details of the work carried out during the year can be seen from the table.

In addition, inspections were made as follows:—

Local Authority Properties, 149; Private dwellings, 2,915; Agricultural Holdings, 137, and Business Premises, 273.

The work was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator, assisted part time by another workman in the Department.

The methods advocated by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the extermination of rats and mice were used, the bait bases being damp sausage rusk, bread mash, oatmeal and sugar meal, and the poisons Zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide, red squill powder, Antu (alpha-naphthylthiourea) and Warfarin.

Slaughterhouses**FOOD**

Five applications for the renewal of licence were received, all of which were granted.

During the year visits were made as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	1,025
Occasional Slaughter		5

<i>Total</i>		1,030
--------------	--	-------

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART**

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	337	94	58	938	6,974
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	8	2	14	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	32	2	21	288
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	10.9	42.5	6.9	3.7	4.2
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	2	—	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	16	13	—	—	476
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.0	15.9	—	—	5.5
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	2	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of carcasses and organs found to be diseased, and consequently voluntarily surrendered, was 9 tons, 8 cwts., 3 qrs., 2 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Milk

The number of dairies and distributors registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, are as follows:—

Dairies	...	...	17
Distributors	...	...	28
			—
			45
			—

Twenty visits of inspection were made during the year.

The following licences were issued to dealers under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954, and Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953, during the year:—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	T.T.	...	19
			Pasteurised	...	17
			Sterilised	...	4
Supplementary Licences	...	...	T.T.	...	6
			Pasteurised	...	6
			Sterilised	...	2

Other Foods

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	25
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	12
Ice Cream (a) Manufacturers	2	}	...	...	103
(b) Sale	101		...	...
General Stores	...	...	...	...	134
Dairies (a) Distributors	33	}	...	...	53
(b) Dairies	20		...	...
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	21
Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	...	61
					—
					420
					—

The number of food premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:—

The manufacture of Ice Cream for sale ...	2
The sale of Ice Cream	101
The manufacture of Preserved Food ...	46
	—
	149
	—

137 visits were made to food premises during the year, and a total weight of 8 cwts. 3 qrs. 8 lbs. of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

During the year, 5 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream.

Thirty-three samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:—

PROVISIONAL GRADINGS

<i>Time taken to reduce</i>					
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Methylene Blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>			<i>Result</i>
1	4½ hrs. or more	Satisfactory	...	...	25
2	2½ hrs. -4 hrs.	Fair	...	...	5
3	½ hr.-2 hrs.	Unsatisfactory		...	2
4	0 hrs.	Very bad	...	...	1
					—
					33
					—

Byelaws as to the handling and sale of food are in force in the Rural District. Minor contraventions were detected, but these were quickly rectified when the shopkeepers were notified.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCES

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1955, to the 31st March, 1956.

Petroleum Spirit

Number of licences renewed during the above period ...	67
Number of new licences issued during the above period	2
Number of licences transferred	2

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. FEDRICK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Underhill (Plymouth) Ltd
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